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Letter dated 23 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the tenth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 23 May 2016.

Following the consultative meeting, the members of the two Councils agreed upon a joint communiqué (see annex).

I convey this joint communiqué to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, the Security Council body that engaged with African Union colleagues on the attached text.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tekeda **Alemu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 23 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué of the tenth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

1. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held their tenth annual joint consultative meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 23 May 2016.

2. They reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa as provided for in the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. They also reaffirmed the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of local disputes.

3. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council reviewed matters of peace and security, in particular the conflict and crisis situations in Burundi and Somalia. They seized the opportunity of the joint consultative meeting and the informal meeting marking 10 years of joint consultations, held on the margins of the joint consultative meeting, to assess their cooperation with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in Africa, and to exchange views on ways of strengthening their partnership, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter and the relevant provisions of the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council.

4. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council underlined the importance of mutual respect in the partnership between the two Councils and stressed the need for renewed efforts to enhance the partnership, including through a review and transformation of the partnership, in order to ensure greater synergies and coherence and a more effective response to peace and security challenges facing the African continent.

5. In this regard, the two Councils resolved to forge a more coherent and effective partnership and stressed that common and coordinated efforts undertaken by the two Councils in matters of peace and security should take into account their comparative advantages, as well as their respective authorities, competencies and capacities.

On the situation in Somalia

6. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in Somalia despite the remaining challenges. They commended the Federal Government of Somalia and other Somali political leaders for agreeing on a model for the electoral process planned for August 2016 and encouraged them to pursue their efforts towards the

political stabilization of Somalia. They commended the commitment of the Federal Government to reserve 30 per cent of seats in the upper and lower houses of Parliament for women. They welcomed the commitment contained in the Mogadishu Declaration to develop a road map and agenda to deliver universal suffrage in the election to be held in 2020.

7. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council called on the Somali stakeholders to hold to their commitment that there shall be no extension of the electoral process timelines in Somalia and called for progress on the constitutional review process and for the completion of the federal State formation process. They underlined the importance of good faith and cooperation between federal and regional authorities in Somalia in resolving outstanding issues in this regard.

8. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council expressed grave concern regarding the security situation in Somalia. They reiterated their strong condemnation of attacks and recruitment of children by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab. They underlined that this group poses a serious threat in Somalia and urged Somali national defence and security forces to take full and effective control of areas liberated from Al-Shabaab.

9. In this regard, the members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed and encouraged the efforts made by the Federal Government of Somalia and other political leaders to strengthen and establish professional, inclusive and accountable security forces, encouraged the Government to intensify those efforts and urged member States of the United Nations and of the African Union to contribute to this process. They stressed the need for coordination of efforts among international actors in the area of capacity-building and training for the Somali security forces.

10. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council commended and paid tribute to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Army for their sacrifices and efforts in the fight against Al-Shabaab. They acknowledged the critical role of AMISOM in the stabilization of Somalia. They discussed the financial, logistical and operational challenges facing AMISOM. The Peace and Security Council underscored the need for the provision of more sustainable, predictable and effective support to AMISOM. They underscored the importance of enhancing command and control, generating additional forces, enablers and multipliers and improving coordination within AMISOM, as contained in the conclusions of the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries of AMISOM, held in Djibouti on 28 February 2016, and called for the swift fulfilment of those commitments.

On the situation in Burundi

11. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council reiterated their deep concern about the persisting political impasse and violence in the country, as well as the attendant serious humanitarian consequences. They strongly condemned all violations and abuses of human rights, by whomsoever perpetrated. They stressed the urgency of convening a genuine and inclusive inter-Burundi dialogue, based on respect for the Constitution and the Arusha

Agreement, in coordination with the Government of Burundi and all Burundian stakeholders committed to a peaceful solution, both those in Burundi and those outside the country, in order to find a consensual and nationally owned solution to the current crisis.

12. They urged the Government of Burundi and all Burundian stakeholders committed to a peaceful solution, both those in Burundi and those outside the country, to extend full cooperation to the Mediator and President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, and the Facilitator and former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Benjamin William Mkapa, in order to urgently agree on a timetable for the timely conduct of an inclusive inter-Burundi dialogue, led by the East African Community (EAC) and endorsed by the African Union (AU). They further welcomed the role of the Secretary-General, through the good offices of his Special Adviser for conflict prevention, including in Burundi, Jamal Benomar, to support the inter-Burundi dialogue, and in this regard to coordinate and work with the Mediator and the Facilitator in the EAC-led and AU-endorsed process.

13. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council welcomed the efforts deployed by the African Union in Burundi and also welcomed the visit to Burundi of the African Union High-level Delegation, on 25 and 26 February 2016, as well as the visit to Burundi of the Secretary-General, on 22 and 23 February 2016. In this regard, they welcomed the consent of the Burundian authorities to increase to 200 the number of human rights observers and military experts of the African Union, stressed the importance of their full and speedy deployment, and urged the Government of Burundi and other concerned stakeholders to provide them with full cooperation in order to facilitate the implementation of their mandate.

14. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council agreed to convene their eleventh consultative meeting in Addis Ababa in 2017, which will be, in particular, an opportunity for the two Councils to assess progress made in the implementation of the present communiqué. The date of the meeting will be determined through consultations between the Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the President of the Security Council.